

DRAYTON AT SEA IN CRITICISM OF LIBERAL BUDGET

Offers Nothing of Constructive Nature in Submitting Resolution of Censure.

ATTACKS PARTY'S STAND

Hon. J. A. Robb Quickly Proves Cabinet Is Bringing About Needed Reforms.

BY RANDOLPH J. CHURCHILL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Ottawa, Ont., May 26.—Offering nothing but destructive criticism, and as an amendment merely a resolution of censure, Sir Henry Drayton, minister of finance in the late government, replied to Hon. W. S. Fielding's budget speech when the house resumed today following a two-day holiday.

Throughout his speech Sir Henry remained true to the one policy followed by the Conservative party this session, the policy of destruction, avoiding the while everything of a constructive nature.

Although he proved politically consistent in this respect it cannot be said that the quality of consistency was carried further than that, for the criticism in his speech was absolutely at variance with the arguments upon which he based his censure.

The former minister of finance found fault with practically every resolution of the budget from abolition of the minimum tax, but it was not on the contents of the budget that the resolution of want of confidence was based, but on a claim that the Liberals did not legislate true to their platform of 1919.

Sir Henry censured the government because, in his opinion, it did not adopt a platform which was diametrically opposed to the alleged policy of his own party.

Merely Repetition.

It was merely a repetition of the speech from the throne amendment moved in March by Col. James Arthur of Parry Sound, and like that amendment will probably result in nothing else but a prolonged debate and a hearty vote of confidence in the Liberal government.

Hon. J. A. Robb, minister of trade and commerce, replied to Sir Henry Drayton.

By reading a verbatim report of Premier W. L. Mackenzie King's speech at the 1919 Liberal convention, Mr. Robb proved that the Liberal party had not betrayed its platform, but rather that it had been adopted as a chart by which the government was bringing about needed reforms as rapidly as the people would permit.

He regretted that Sir Henry had adopted the "same old game," started in 1911, for he had hoped, he said, that all parties would march shoulder to shoulder in the future for the good of Canada.

For six months now the country had been living under the "fuller life," larger liberty and newer freedom," which the Liberal party promised to Canada, Sir Henry said, in its attack.

The difficulty was that the longer we lived under it the worse it seemed to get. Instead of breathing optimism, the minister of finance appeared to be looking through a pair of gloomy spectacles. As far as Sir Henry could see, the people of Canada had every right to feel cheerful, and to be thankful that they were living in this country instead of some of the others.

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ada had every right to feel cheerful, and to be thankful that they were living in this country instead of some of the others.

Raps Liberal Cry.

The minister of finance seemed to be expecting little that was good. Last year was a bad year for the Canadian customs, but even so, the revenue totalled \$105,000,000. In his estimate for the coming year, Mr. Fielding fixed the figure of \$103,000,000 customs revenue. Prior to the election the Liberal cry had been to restore the ministry of the golden years to power and everything would be all right.

Now this ministry had been restored, and its minister of finance was looking forward with gloom to decreasing revenues. He could not understand why Mr. Fielding forecast a decrease in customs revenue, unless the minister of finance thought his tariff changes were such as to seriously interfere with business.

Another forecast of the finance minister which filled him with amazement, said Sir Henry, was the estimate of income tax for the present fiscal year. When the former government was in power, both in and out of the house, it was accused of failure in collecting income and business profits taxes. It was charged with laxity and inefficiency and with piling up arrears. It had collected \$101,500,000 by direct taxation.

Mr. Fielding estimated the revenue from direct taxation for the present year at only \$90,000,000.

"I hope he will do a little better than that, and again I think his estimate is too low," said Sir Henry. He was glad to see an effort being made to bring about closer trade relations with England and Australia.

As to the trade arrangement with France, the late government had always been willing and anxious to negotiate for better trade arrangements.

Deplores Charge.

Sir Henry regretted that Mr. Fielding had seen fit to dispense with the provision limiting the depreciation of foreign exchange. Last year the government had foreseen what was coming, and realized that the home market was the only reliable one for the Canadian producer. The limitation placed against depreciation of foreign currency had been a step to prevent the flooding of the Canadian home market with German and Austrian goods.

Sir Henry quoted from an interview given by a man who had recently returned from Germany to show the low scale of living in that country at present. The present budget, he said, might well be referred to as one which gave 2½ per cent British preference and Germany free trade.

The marking act should have been retained. Canadians had a right to know from what country they were buying goods.

There had been no reference to the income tax act in the budget speech, but Sir Henry wished to call the attention of the finance minister to two classes of cases which needed sympathetic treatment. The first of these was the widow, whose exemption was reduced just at the time that she lost the bread-winner. The second was the commercial traveler who did not get a proper allowance for expenses.

emptions was reduced just at the time that she lost the bread-winner. The second was the commercial traveler who did not get a proper allowance for expenses.

Changes Unimportant.

The tariff changes were hardly important enough, to delay the house long. The agricultural implement industry should be able to carry on. The policy of the Conservative party was that reductions in duty should be made where production could be carried on a proper basis, but they should not be made where it endangered the employment of workmen.

As Mr. Fielding had left the agricultural implement duties in 1911, the average rate was 20.2. Under reciprocity the average rate would have been 17.3. Under the Conservative regime it was reduced to 14.6. The reduction now proposed was 21.2 per cent. That was all right if the industry was able to stand it. It would be wrong if as the result of it many Canadians were thrown out of work.

Sir Henry analyzed the drawback regulations to point out their great moment to the steel industry. On a sixteen marker western drill, allowing for drawbacks, the net duty on the steel contained was \$1.81, as compared with a freight duty from Hamilton to Moose Jaw of \$16.80, or a similar net duty on the steel in a horse rake was \$5.12 as compared with a freight rate of \$6.14.

Lauds Reduction.

The ex-minister congratulated Mr. Fielding on reducing the excise duty which the druggist had to pay on alcohol. The late government had been willing to make the reduction provided regulations could be drafted to guard the revenue. The regulations which had now been accepted by the present government had been under consideration by the late administration. The finance minister, however, had not removed all the hardships that arose under the heavy duty of \$9 on alcohol. The case of the country doctor deserved sympathetic consideration by the minister.

Sir Henry asked what had become of that old complaint and cry that the late government had exempted the rich and crushed the poor with its taxation. He recalled what a terrible thing the sales tax was held up to be by the then opposition. The old administration was a dreadful government in the way it had added to the burdens of the people. This dreadful procedure, however, had suddenly become all right.

Raps Auto Tax.

The former minister of finance reminded the Liberals of their objections to the luxury taxes, especially the taxes on automobiles. At that time they had declared that automobiles valued at \$1,000 and under were not luxuries, and ought not to be taxed. Yet they had placed a tax on automobiles. No one could forget the moving appeal of the present solicitor-general (Hon. D. D. McKenzie) against a tax on candy. Yet today, as a result of the change of position, taxes which were an outrage formerly, are now reasonable and proper things.

Mr. Fielding undoubtedly required all the money he could get, in view of the estimates which were being put through; but it was evident that he would require more than he could secure.

Sir Henry asked why telegrams were particularly picked out for taxation, and the long-distance telephone overlooked. The chief thing about the budget was that "it taxes us nowhere, leads to nowhere and settles nothing, but on the other hand adds doubt and uncertainty."

The finance minister had pointed out that business was bad, but the budget had not helped in relieving the situation with regard to Canada's one-sided trade with United States. Last year, for every dollar Canada exported in the United States, she purchased goods to the value of \$1.75.

In spite of this the budget was second only to the efforts of the United States. Canada had reduced many of her duties upon American goods.

Fears Unemployment.

"Are we to consider ourselves an adjunct to the United States?" asked Sir Henry. The budget could be searched in vain for measures which would relieve unemployment. On the other hand, the government had cancelled the depreciated currency regulations. This would further expose Canadians to unemployment, and was an astonishing thing to find in the budget.

Then there was the question of ordinary political honesty.

Nothing had been done to implement the pledges of the Liberal party. There was not one word in it connected with the platform of the Liberal party. Sir Henry read from the Liberal platform of 1919 resolutions to the effect that the greatest economy was necessary, and that increases in revenue should be obtained from business profit taxes and incomes, and taxes on luxuries.

How much regard for this larger liberty and freedom was found in the budget, unless by taxes on automobiles and candy?

Moves Amendment.

Sir Henry then moved the Conservative amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Meighen.

The amendment declares "that the making of such solemn pledges, the utilization of them to secure support and their flagrant disregard after the attainment of office, reveal a disregard of political honor, and tend to lower the standard of public life."

"That all the words after the word 'that' be struck out and the following substituted therefor: 'The Liberal party assembled in convention in August, 1919, adopted a resolution which, after reciting its professed purpose, contained the following specific and unqualified pledges:

"That to these ends wheat, wheat flour and all products of wheat; the principal articles of food; farm implements and machinery; farm tractors; mining, flour and sawmill machinery and repair parts thereof; rough and partly dressed lumber; gasoline, illuminating, lubricating and fuel points; nets, twines and fishermen's equipments; cements, and fertilizers, should be free from customs duties, as well as the raw material entering into same."

"That the British preference be increased to 50 per cent of the general tariff."

"And the Liberal party hereby pledges itself to implement by legislation the provisions of this resolution when returned to power."

"That such pledges were restated as the policy of the Liberal party in an official handbook issued just before the general election, namely, in October, 1921, under the authority of its leader, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King."

"That candidates contesting on behalf of the Liberal party in the said election used widely the promises therein set out as a means of securing support."

"That the Liberal party, having been returned to power, the budget proposals of the finance minister now brought down constitute, on the part of the government, an utter failure to implement such pledges by legislation."

"That the making of such solemn pledges, the utilization of them to secure support, and their flagrant violation after the attainment of office reveal a disregard of politicians' honor, and tend to lower the standard of public life."

Hon. J. A. Robb, minister of trade and commerce, said that Sir Henry Drayton seemed to be blaming the government for making reductions in the tariff, and then criticizing it because it had not made more reductions. He had cherished the hope that the Conservatives who had promised so many reforms and then delayed them would be willing to assist the government in measures calculated to bring in stability.

The government was carrying out the pledges made by the prime minister when chosen as Liberal leader at the 1919 convention. On that occasion Mr. King had stated that the tariff resolution passed by the convention would serve as a chart by which to direct his policy, and that

he would be guided by the wisest council which he could obtain. The government was prepared to go as far as the people of Canada would let it go along the line of tariff reform. In 1911 the Liberal government had gone faster than the people wished to go, and had met defeat in consequence.

Forgot Fielding's Trip.

When Sir Henry Drayton declared that the government had failed to carry out all its election promises he conveniently forgot the trip of Hon. W. S. Fielding to Washington. Mr. Fielding had gone down with an invitation to the United States to trade with Canada. He had met with the reply that the United States could not trade with Canada because of a farmer group which would not do business with the farmers of this country. Surely then the minister of finance was justified in taking the ground that we would trade with those who would trade with us. Canada was offering inducements to Great Britain in the hope that Great Britain would extend greater concessions to Canada.

Mr. Cregar asked Mr. Robb if he would indicate the direction in which Great Britain could give Canada concessions.

Mr. Robb replied that he had in mind the embargo against Canadian cattle. He did not believe in using the "big stick," but indications were that there would shortly be a market in Great Britain for Canadian cattle.

Mr. Robb was not afraid to trade with any man, but was not willing to reduce the Canadian tariff to a minimum when other nations were keeping their tariffs up. When the tariff resolutions were before the committee the government would have the advice of all groups in the house. The good of Canada was the main thing to be considered.

R. J. Woods (Progressive, Dufferin) said it was true there had been a downward revision of the tariff for which they had been looking, but it made very little difference to the load being borne by the workingman. It might be called something of a handout and they probably ought to be thankful for small mercies, always remembering that half a loaf was better than no bread at all.

Contrasts Motor Prices.

The sales tax had come in the shape of an added burden to the consumer and while it might prove a good revenue producer it came from those least able to pay. It was like taking the burden off one shoulder and putting it on the other. It was unfair to protect the manufacturer who got his raw material for furniture and other household commodities free and then was protected when he sold the manufactured goods. The farmers had never complained about corn coming into the country duty free to compete with coarse grains. Woolen goods and clothing generally was still heavily protected.

Automobiles, Mr. Woods thought, had got past the luxury stage; they were now a convenience, if not a necessity.

Mr. Woods contrasted the price paid in Detroit (\$345) for a Ford car with that paid in Ford, Ont., (\$535). The difference was not entirely made up of duty which was only \$121.50, but if an American car was purchased the amount of the duty went into the government treasury, while if a Canadian car were purchased it went into Henry Ford's pocket.

O. Turgeon (Liberal, Gloucester) said that Mr. Fielding's visit to Washington would probably have a beneficial effect in bringing the people of Canada and the United States closer together. He thought that the overtures made by the finance minister were already having their effect in developing opposition to those who preached a policy of high protection in the United States.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ARRIVES.

QUEBEC, May 26.—Hon. H. N. Barwell, premier of South Australia, was among the passengers who landed here last night from the C. P. R. liner Empress of Scotland. He is on a tour of the world. After a visit to Ottawa he will go to New York and Washington. He will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be given at the American capital.

WORLD NEWS CUT SHORT

ROME, May 26.—Scores of Royal Guards and Fascisti were wounded last night in a street battle in the crowded San Lorenzo quarter of the city.

CAIRO, Egypt, May 26.—Wilfred Cave, a British officer, assistant commandant of police here, was shot and killed yesterday while returning home from a bicycling trip.

Six bullets of different kinds were found in the body of Mr. Cave, proving that there was more than one assassin. No arrests have been made. Cave once belonged to the bodyguard of Viscount Milner, former British secretary for the colonies.

PARIS, May 26.—The Allied military occupation of Upper Silesia is likely to come to an end by the last of July, according to the report of the Allied commission for the district, which has been considered by the council of ambassadors here.

Fourteen thousand men of the Allied forces are still in Upper Silesia. Of these 11,500 are French, 1,500 British and the remainder Italian.

The Germans and the Poles recently reached an agreement covering adjustments in the district, and the commissioners now forecast a situation which will permit complete withdrawal of the military within sixty days.

PARIS, May 26.—Paris yesterday experienced the hottest day of the year, the thermometer reaching 91.1 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade at 3.45 o'clock in the afternoon. This city was one of many capitals to feel a heat wave

that began sweeping Western Europe five days ago.

The heat here generated a peculiarly stifling haze, although the sky was blue throughout France. The weather bureau predicts heat, with possibly an even higher temperature tomorrow.

CANTON, May 26.—Conditions here at the capital of the Southern Chinese Republic are much unsettled as a result of the military movements going on and of the unsatisfactory business and financial situation.

Officials of the republic, in the course of talks, shared in the view as to the unsettled condition of affairs, although they keep up an outward appearance of minimizing existing troubles.

The indications are that President Sun Yat-Sen's poorly equipped military expedition against the north is losing the confidence of the people, and that Gen. Chen Chiung-Ming, the South China military leader, is gaining prestige among the people and among the business and conservative classes. He is also considered as the one who is actually controlling the military situation in the southern part of Kwangtung Province, including Canton.

A political crisis is likely to be precipitated at any time, the result of which would depend largely upon the action of Chen Chiung-Ming. The financial situation continues strained, with merchants complaining of bad business, while the poorer classes are suffering from the rice shortage and high prices.

PARIS, May 26.—The government will be interpellated in the Chamber of Deputies on the circumstances surrounding the disastrous collision between the British steamship Egypt and the French freighter Seine, it is announced by Deputy Guernier, president of the merchant marine committee of the chamber.

The two missionaries, Mrs. M. L. Sibley and Miss V. M. Boyer, reported missing, are still unaccounted for, and no further bodies have been recovered.

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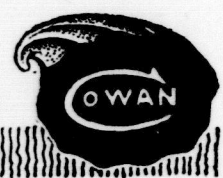
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